



**OK Appropriations Committee
Health Subcommittee
February 24, 2022**

**Public Hearing on:
House Bill 5037 AAC the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30th, 2023
(Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services)**

I respectfully submit my written testimony in the hope that the State of Connecticut will give a higher budget priority to not-for-profit organizations such as SCADD, that serve the most vulnerable and needy of Connecticut's citizens. SCADD has served Connecticut for 55 years. We have been challenged by chronic underfunding for many years, yet our staff continues to work tirelessly and unselfishly providing addiction rehabilitation services during very difficult times.

During the COVID epidemic, our staff continued to serve the needy at their own peril. SCADD employees make a big difference in the life of those in recovery. This has improved the quality of life for many and made our communities safer for all.

It is ironic that SCADD does not have sufficient funding from the State to provide the services we are expected to provide. We have not been able to provide our staff with a fair and equitable wage. We have not been able to afford cost of living adjustments or merit increases. This has resulted in a 45% turnover ratio of our staff. Our citizens deserve compassionate care, yet we cannot provide the same level of consideration to compensate our staff. This is a regrettable situation that can be rectified by prioritizing more funding. The need is immediate and urgent.

Sincerely,

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